

5/26/09

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jim Tetzlaff and my brother was murdered 20 years ago by a 15 year old (Efran Paredes inmate # 203116) who is currently serving two life without parole sentences.

The murder of my brother was planned and carried out by Paredes. Paredes was a bagger at a grocery store and my brother was the manager. At the end of the night when all the shoppers were gone and all the employees had left, Paredes called my brother to the back of the store and shot my brother in the chest. While he lay on the floor, Paredes put three more bullets in his back and in the back of my brother's head. In a recent commutation hearing, Paredes claims that my brother was his friend and Paredes looked up to my brother, but showed no remorse at the trial or his sentencing. What kind of person can commit such a cold and callous crime? I think the Assistant Attorney General said it best at Paredes commutation hearing when he called Paredes a psychopath!

I have been to parole hearings before, Paredes had two accomplices. One brought the gun to Paredes work place and the other picked him up after the murder. Both have since been paroled. When I testified to the Parole Board it was only with two members. I had time to plead my case, why I feel the inmate should not be paroled. Each time I testified it stirs painful memories of the worst day of my life and I have to take time off work. Parole hearings are not trials. Parole members are not at the trial. An inmate can say anything they feel would sway a parole member and I believe they do. What ever happened to "truth in sentencing"?

I am a school teacher; I work with 13 and 14 year olds every day. They know the difference between right and wrong and they understand there are consequences if they do something wrong and get caught. I feel that for a prosecuting attorney and a judge to sentence a 16 to life without parole must be difficult. They can choose not too. Our court system needs this option, the option to sentence a murderer to life without parole, regardless of their age. If a juvenile commits an adult crime our court system must have the authority to sentence offenders to a penalty that fits the crime, life for a life. If we were in Texas this would have a different meaning. If the community feels differently then they can choose not to re-elect judges and prosecutors. We don't have this option for parole board members.

Trying to live with such a tragedy in my life has been difficult. The only peace I have found was that the cold blooded murderer of my brother will be in jail for the rest of his life. Justice has been served. Please help my family put this ordeal finally to rest, do not allow parole board members the power to release murders especially retroactively.

Thank you for your time,

James R. Tetzlaff